

Rural District Council

OF ULVERSTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1909.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS

R. BLAKE; PRINTER, BOOKBINDER AND STATIONER.

1910.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, OF ULVERSTON.

TOWN HALL,

ULVERSTON,

FEBRUARY, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, I beg to submit my Annual Report, which, like its predecessors, gives a record of the work carried out during the year, and deals with the conditions affecting the public health of your district.

Cartmel Division.

WATER SUPPLY.

CARTMEL DISTRICT.—At the time of writing my report, the combined scheme for providing a gravitation supply of water for Broughton East, Cartmel Town, (Allithwaite Lower and Holker Upper) and Cark and Flookburgh, (Holker Lower) was progressing as rapidly as circumstances would admit, and the Council are to be congratulated upon the successful endeavours of the Cartmel Divisional Committee.

NEWTON IN CARTMEL.—It has been decided to make application to the Grange Urban District Council, to be permitted to tap the mains belonging to that Authority for the supply of Newton in Cartmel.

Hawkshead Division.

WATER SUPPLY.

COLTON, BACKBARROW.—It is a matter for regret that Backbarrow in Colton is still without a water supply. It will be remembered that in my last report, I stated the fact, that the owner chiefly concerned had memorialized the District Council in the manner provided by the Public Health Water Act, 1878. The proceedings of the Council, consequent upon this memorial, were stayed in consideration of a promise given, that a long drafted scheme of the owner would be carried out, and only so recently as October last, particulars of the proposals and plans were submitted for the approval of the Hawkshead Divisional Committee. I am reluctant to believe that the promise given to the Committee will not be fulfilled; but the Council ought not to permit any further delay; as the health and necessity of the householders is a matter which gravely calls for consideration.

SATTERTHWAITE.—Through the friendly facilities afforded by Mr. Harold Brocklebank, certain properties, which have, from time to time, been reported as in need of a water supply, have during the past year been supplied by gravitation, and this provision means that the village of Satterthwaite is generally satisfactory in respect of its water supply.

DRAINAGE.

COLTON, OXENPARK.—A small but satisfactory scheme of Sewerage has been carried out at Oxenpark, dealing with the Sewage of a part of the Village.

HAWKSHEAD, OUTGATE.—During the past year there has been satisfactorily completed the last section of the scheme of Sewerage for this Hamlet.

High Furness Division.

WATER SUPPLY.

CONISTON.—The Coniston Water Supply Scheme, as stated in my last Annual Report has been completed, but there remains for the Divisional Committee to determine the

question of an improved supply to that group of houses commonly designated Cat Bank. There is at present a gravitation supply, but this has not proved itself to be sufficiently constant to be regarded as satisfactory.

KIRKBY-IRELETH, BECKSIDE.—Many Service Connections, for the supply of water to the dwellings in this village have been laid, but there remain a number of houses whose supply can hardly be deemed satisfactory.

Low Furness Division.

WATER SUPPLY.

ALDINGHAM, BAYCLIFFE.—During the past year a windmill has been erected, and a storage tank constructed, under a scheme approved by the Local Government Board, for the supply of water to Baycliffe, and the period for which the money is borrowed, will be extended, if the yield of the well and the quality of the water, is, after a reasonable lapse of time shown to the Local Government Board to be satisfactory, and I sincerely trust that this may be so, as the inhabitants of this village have long been in need of water within a reasonable distance of their dwellings.

LEECE:—To meet the necessity for an augmented supply of water for the village of Leece, an additional well has recently been sunk, and a pump erected.

DRAINAGE.

GLEASTON.—It is scarcely necessary for me to refer to the subject of the Sewerage of Gleaston, because the Divisional Committee have practically determined to complete the remaining section of the drainage scheme, and are only waiting for a statement as to the financial condition of the Township.

EGTON WITH NEWLAND, ARRAD FOOT.—During the year a small, but apparently efficient scheme of Sewerage for the village of Arrad Foot had been carried out.

GENERAL.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—The necessity for this important branch of sanitary work, being efficiently carried out, is slowly, but surely, being recognised by the various Divisional Committees, and satisfactory arrangements are in operation in many of the larger villages.

SWARTHMOOR STREETS.—One could not speak too strongly of the condition of the streets of Swarthmoor, which are still dangerous, at all times, to drivers of vehicles, and at night time to foot passengers, as well as a menace to the health of the inhabitants. As the Justices, who determined the appeals made to them, against the provisional apportionments of the cost of a scheme adopted by the Council for making the streets under the provisions of the Private Street Work's Act 1892, decided against the Council, because the cost was too burthensome on the Owners, the subject had to be considered afresh; and I am given to understand that at an early date a modified scheme will be submitted for the Council's approval. If the Council, finally adopt proposals which will fairly and reasonably meet the Owners of property with regard to the burthen of expense, and at the same time, satisfy the all too apparent requirements of the village, I sincerely hope that it will not falter in its duty.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—The Dairies and Cowsheds in your district are kept under fairly regular inspection, but I think I may take it for granted, that the condition of many of the Cowsheds is anything but satisfactory, both as regards air space, lighting and cleanliness; this is a distinct menace to the public health, and in the long run, is probably prefudicial to the best interests of the farmer.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.—The Slaughter Houses in the district are periodically inspected, and as a general rule are found to be kept in fair order, any complaints being dealt with promptly as they arise. As to the inspection of meat, it is impracticable, in a district so wide and the Slaughter Houses scattered over so large an area, to provide for the regular and systematic inspection of meat, but whilst the Health Officers are not unmindful of their duty in regard to this important branch of sanitary administration, I am glad to be able to state that, so far, I have had no reason to believe that meat unfit for human consumption has been exposed for sale in the rural district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—The Summaries of the Inspectors of Nuisances show the inspections made under this Act. The various requirements notified from time to time, by H. M. Inspector of Factories have been carried out.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907.—This Act, which provides for the notification, to the Medical Officer of Health, of all births occurring in the district, has not been adopted ; and I fail to see that its adoption would be any benefit to the district.

Details of the work performed by the Inspectors, under the Factory and Workshops' Act, are appended hereto.

	Cartmel Division Mr. Brocklesby	Hawks- head Division Mr. Thompson	High Furness Division Mr. Ellwood	Low Furness Division Mr. Hudson
Complaints received	51	2	14	—
Houses and premises inspected	408	60	478	179
Common lodging houses inspected	2	—	1	—
Common lodging houses registered	No lodging houses.			
Cases of over crowding reported	2	—	—	—
Orders issued for sanitary improvement	34	28	11	27
Plans approved	—	6	—	—
Houses and premises repaired, cleaned, or whitewashed }	25	1	—	—
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	23	10	8	3
Cases of bedding and clothing destroyed	—	—	—	—
Privy accommodation provided	13	6	4	—
Privies cleansed or repaired ...	—	4	9	—
Sewage tanks cleansed ...	24	3	9	2
Privies, ashpits, or middensteads emptied or repaired }	1539	55	14	—
Removal of accumulations of refuse or other offensive matters }	29	—	—	—
Removal of animals improperly kept	2	—	2	—
Drains trapped, ventilated, or repaired	16	8	14	7
Orders issued for protection or improvements of water supply }	14	1	4	—
Wells closed	—	2	—	—
Seizures of unwholesome food	—	—	—	—
Slaughter-house inspections ...	9	4	5	5
Slaughter-houses registered ...	8	4	5	5
Bakehouses inspected ...	7	3	2	1
Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—
Inspections under Factory and Workshops' Act }	36	70	58	27

Dairies and Cowsheds inspections	94	29	72	77
Schools disinfected	1	1	18	—

In the case of the Hawkshead and Low Furness District the change of the Inspectors has made it difficult to arrive at correct figures.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—As a Census of the population will be taken very shortly, and as the population in a rural district is usually subject to very slight fluctuations, I think we may safely base the calculations made in the following statistics upon the population as enumerated in 1901, which was as under.

Cartmel	4277
Hawkshead	3554
High Furness	4449
Low Furness	5436
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Total	17716
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BIRTHS.—I find that 374 births have been registered during the past year, producing a birth rate of 21·1 per 1,000. In the year 1908 there were 337 births, at that time the birth-rate was 19·0 per 1,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRTHS :—

	1909.		1908.	
	Births	Birth-rate	Births	Birth-rate
Cartmel	106	24·7	76	17·7
Hawkshead	65	18·2	68	19·1
High Furness	81	18·1	91	20·4
Low Furness	122	22·4	102	18·5
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	374	21·1	337	19·0

	Cartmel	Hawks-head.	High Furness.	Low Furness.	Total
In the 1st quarter of the year	31	15	11	26	83
„ 2nd „	32	13	24	36	105
„ 3rd „	27	19	26	33	106
„ 4th „	16	18	20	26	80
Total	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	106	65	81	122	374

MALE and FEMALE CHILDREN BORN :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Cartmel	52	54	106
Hawkshead	38	27	65
High Furness	43	38	81
Low Furness	65	57	122
Totals	198	176	374

It is satisfactory to note a continued increase in the number of births, in the Cartmel and Low Furness Divisions. In the Hawkshead and High Furness Division there has been a slight decrease.

DEATHS.—During the year 1909, 188 deaths have been registered, the death rate being in the proportion of 10·0 per 1,000, in the year 1908 there were 237 deaths, the death rate then being 13·3 per 1,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS :—

	1909.		1908.	
	Deaths.	Death-rate.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
Cartmel	40	9·3	56	13·0
Hawkshead	39	10·9	49	13·7
High Furness	46	10·3	64	14·3
Low Furness	63	11·5	68	12·5
	188	10·0	237	13·3

	Cartmel.	Hawks-head.	High Furness.	Low Furness.	Total.
In the 1st quarter of the year	11	6	18	16	51
„ 2nd „	9	13	11	18	50
„ 3rd „	15	5	7	14	41
„ 4th „	6	15	10	15	49
Totals	40	39	46	63	188

MALE and FEMALE DEATHS :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cartmel	25	15	40
Hawkshead	22	17	39
High Furness	21	25	46
Low Furness	35	28	63
Totals	103	85	188

INFANTILE DEATHS :—During the past year there have been 20 deaths in infants under one year of age, giving an infantile death rate of 53·4 per 1,000 births, in the year 1908 there were 30 infantile deaths, the infantile death rate being then 89·0 per 1·000 births.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFANTILE DEATHS :—

		1909.		1908	
		Infantile Deaths.	Infantile Death-rate.	Infantile Deaths.	Infantile Death-rate.
Cartmel	...	6	56·9	6	79·9
Hawkshead	...	2	30·7	8	117·6
High Furness	...	4	48·3	6	65·9
Low Furness	...	8	65·5	10	98·0
		20	53·4	30	89·0

Although the Infantile Death-rate cannot be vested with the same importance that it would be in dealing with a large town population, nevertheless, it is satisfactory to know that there is a decrease in the number of infants dying during the first year of life.

DEATHS OF PERSONS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE :—

In persons over 65 years of age there have been 89 deaths, as compared with 96 in the previous year. These have been distributed as under :—

	1909.	1908.
Cartmel	21	27
Hawkshead	21	20
High Furness	21	25
Low Furness	26	24
Totals	89	96

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.—From diseases taken under this heading, leaving Phthisis or Consumption of the Lungs, as it is frequently termed, to be considered separately, I find there have been 30 deaths ; in the year 1908 there were 29 deaths from the same class of diseases. The 30 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, have been distributed as follow :—

	Cartmel.	Hawks- head.	High Furness.	Low Furness.	Tctals
Bronchitis	4	5	4	6	19
Pneumonia	3	1	3	4	11
Totals	7	6	7	10	30

The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs is equal to 15·0 per cent of the deaths from all other causes.

DEATHS FROM PHTHISIS.—Phthisis has been the cause of death in 12 cases, which equals a death-rate of 10·6 per cent of the deaths from all causes ; in the year 1908 there were also 20 deaths registered from the disease which produced a death-rate of 8·4 per cent of the deaths from all causes.

The deaths from Phthisis have been distributed as follows :—

	1909.		1908	
	Deaths from Phthisis.	Percentage to deaths from all causes.	Deaths from Phthisis.	Percentage to deaths from all causes.
Cartmel ...	—	—	3	5·3
Hawkshead	1	2·3	4	8·1
High Furness	4	8·6	6	9·3
Low Furness	6	9·5	7	10·2
	11	5·8	20	8·4

ZYMOTIC DISEASES have given rise to 2 of the deaths that have been registered, the Zymotic death-rate being equal to ·67 per 1,000. In the year 1908, there were exactly the same number of deaths from this class of diseases.

	Cartmel.	Hawks-head.	High Furness.	Low Furness.	Totals.
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	1
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	—	1	—	—	1
	—	1	1	—	2
Rate per 1,000	00·0	·26	·22	00·1	·11
Rate per 1000 in 1908	·70	1·1	·67	·36	·67

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipe- las.	Diph- theria	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Continued Fever.	Totals.
Cartmel	27	—	5	2	—	1	35
Hawkshead	11	2	3	2	—	—	18
High Furness	6	—	9	—	—	—	15
Low Furness	4	2	1	—	—	—	7
	48	4	18	4	—	1	75
Totals 1908	26	6	7	5	1	—	45

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED SINCE THE YEAR 1900:—

	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysip- elas.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever.	Contin. Fever.	Totals
1900	—	1	30	7	8	13	—	—	59
1901	—	—	51	7	114	10	1	—	163
1902	—	—	70	8	17	8	2	—	105
1903	—	—	33	8	32	9	—	—	82
1904	—	—	121	24	29	10	1	—	185
1905	—	—	66	13	23	10	—	—	112
1906	—	—	44	15	14	2	—	—	75
1907	1	—	70	7	31	7	1	—	117
1908	—	—	26	6	7	5	1	—	45
1909	—	—	48	4	18	4	—	1	75

As in former reports, I append hereto a table showing the incidence of infectious disease in the different divisions during the last ten years.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diph- theria.	Puerperal Fever.	Small Pox.	Continued Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Total
Cartmel	179	20	23	1	—	1	23	—	257
Hawkshead	119	48	25	—	—	—	10	—	202
High Furness	71	19	163	1	—	—	49	1	302
Low Furness	182	27	51	4	1	—	27	—	292
	531	114	162	6	1	1	109	1	1053

TYPHOID FEVER.—From the above table it will be seen that only four cases of Typhoid Fever were reported in 1909, and this yearly decrease in the number of cases of a disease which, above all others, owes its origin to insanitary conditions, is a subject for congratulation.

Two of the cases were reported as arising at Force Forge in the Hawkshead Division, one of them was certified in July and the other in August. In November 1908 I had a report of the same disease in this house, the sanitary condition of which I found to be very unsatisfactory. The water supply being derived from an open stream and the drainage and privy accommodation both very faulty. I am glad to say that a new supply of water by gravitation has been provided and the defects in the drainage and privy accommodation have been remedied.

A case was reported at Allithwaite in August, and was sent to the Sanatorium, but on arrival there, it was found to be one of appendicitis and was transferred to the Cottage Hospital for operation.

The fourth case arose at Backbarrow in November, but I was not able, in this instance, to account for the outbreak,

SCARLET FEVER.—The outbreaks of Scarlet Fever have usually been of a sporadic character, excepting in the case of those arising at Sawrey and Lindale-in-Cartmel, and in both these villages the disease prevailed in an epidemic form, at Sawrey from July to September and at Lindale-in-Cartmel during August, September, October, November and December. Every effort was made to control the spread of the disease, by hospital isolation and disinfection, but such effort is greatly minimised, if not entirely neutralized by the apathy and carelessness of those who have charge of sufferers, as to their exposure in public. Another very important factor in the spread of the disease is that whilst the typical cases of the disease are diagnosed and isolated, the atypical and unrecognised case, possibly the original source of infection, is still at large, to spread the germs of disease broadcast.

DIPHTHERIA.—This disease has not appeared in an epidemic form, except in one instance, that was at Coniston, where in the early part of the year there was a somewhat severe epidemic, necessitating the closure of the schools. In this connection, I should say that for some time the drainage of the Coniston Schools has been the subject of anxious thought, and I do think the Managers should, at once, face the problem of placing their school premises in a more satisfactory sanitary condition. The health and safety of the little ones committed to their care should take a place far before any mere consideration of expense.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—It has been necessary to close the following Elementary Schools during the year, Coniston in January for an epidemic of Diphtheria, and again in July for Scarlet Fever; Sawrey in July for Scarlet Fever; Lindale-in-Cartmel during September and October for Scarlet Fever and Broughton-in-Furness in September for Whooping Cough.

I must again tender my best thanks to all my colleagues for their kindly assistance at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. Patterson,

L.R.C.P. LOND, M.R.C.S., ENG., D.P.H., LOND.,

February, 1910.

Medical Officer of Health.